

The Lexington Intelligencer.

VOL. XXXII

LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1902.

No 14

RACE QUESTION UP AGAIN.

The lower house of congress on Monday entered on consideration of the military academy appropriation bill. In addition to the regular items, it contains provision for the extensive improvement of the grounds and buildings at West Point. These improvements are to cost \$6,500,000, of which \$3,000,000 is appropriated in the bill.

Twenty-four of the thirty pages of the bill were completed.

During the general debate on the military academy bill, Mr. Gillett of Kentucky, precipitated a discussion on the race question, which was participated in by Messrs. Gillett of Massachusetts, Blackburn of North Carolina, W. W. Kitchin of North Carolina and Gains of Tennessee. Mr. Cockran of Missouri and Mr. Gillett discussed the question of the alleged violation of the neutrality laws in connection with the shipment of mules and horses to South Africa.

SOCIAL EQUALITY OF THE RACES.

Mr. Gillett of Kentucky took occasion to reply to some remarks recently made by Mr. Gillett of Massachusetts, Mr. Brownell of Ohio and General Funston, which he thought reflected upon his state. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Gillett said that in Kentucky and, in fact, in all the south, they looked with supreme contempt upon the social equality of the races. The most ignorant white girl in his state, he said, would infinitely prefer to marry the lowest, meanest, most ignorant white man in the world to the most cultivated negro in America.

Gentlemen on the other side could not cry down the "taint in the blood." He recalled the fact that when a colored man sat on the other side of the house not one of his colleagues invited him to his house. The prejudice against social equality was as strong in the north as in the south, he declared, and all the talk to the contrary was "hypocritical rot and rant."

Mr. Gillett then turned to Mr. Brownell's fling at Kentucky politics and gave his version of Taylor's flight from the state after the murder of Goebel. He described Mr. Taylor's appearance at the Philadelphia convention, characterizing him as an "assassin" who was made an "idol in the north."

MR. GILLETT'S REPLY.

Mr. Gaines of Tennessee, asked if the governor of Massachusetts, when he went to the Nashville exposition, declined to take with him a member of his staff who was a negro.

"If he did," replied Mr. Gillett, "it was because he did not want to wound the sensibilities of the people of Nashville."

Proceeding, Mr. Gillett explained that in New England they could understand the prejudices in the south against the negro and against negro domination, but the people of his section insisted that social ostracism should not be visited upon those who did not share these prejudices. When a negro man raised himself above his fellows and led a pure, clean, manly life, he thought his worth should be recognized. He did not sympathize with a state of society which accepted a man whose hands were stained with the blood of lynching or with election frauds, but which rejected a worthy, pure man simply because his color was black. He objected to making unpardonable the crime of color.

"Do not dodge this issue," cried Mr. Gillett. "Did you ever invite a negro to your table?"

"I never have," replied Mr. Gillett, "but I never have been mean enough to criticize a man who has done so."

He did not ask the people of the south to put aside prejudices, but he did insist that they should not ostracize others who did not believe as they did.

Mr. Patterson of Tennessee said he blushed for the honor of Massachusetts when he heard a defense made of social equality of the negro and white man.

Mr. Blackburn of North Carolina made a vehement speech, protesting against the constant injection of the race question into politics in the south.

MR. COCHRAN ON BRITISH CAMPS. Mr. Cochran of Missouri made a speech in which he argued that it was

the bounden duty of the government to stop the shipment of war material to South Africa. He declared that within forty miles of his home there was a British garrison engaged in buying war supplies, and said the existence of a camp near New Orleans was notorious. He insisted that it was the duty of the administration to prevent these violations of the laws of neutrality.

Mr. Gillett of Massachusetts replied to Mr. Cochran, reading a letter of the sheriff at Chalmette of Louisiana, to the governor of Louisiana, stating specifically that while mules and horses were being loaded at Chalmette there was no British military camp there.

After completing twenty-four of the thirty pages of the bill, the committee rose. The agricultural appropriation bill was reported. A joint resolution was adopted to authorize the admission free of duty of the replica of the statue of Rochambeau.

FOLLY OF BEEF TRUST.

It is very seldom that a staunch republican newspaper like the Kansas City Journal comes out boldly against monopolistic conditions that are furthered by protection laws that have led to the formation of gigantic trusts in this country that are menacing the welfare of the people, and we look upon it as an omen to better conditions when such newspapers lay aside prejudice and speak for the masses against the classes. Wednesday morning's Journal contains the following truthful editorial:

"Great industrial combinations of all kinds should look with concern upon the operations of the packers' trust. The natural and necessary effect of such extortions is to greatly stimulate the popular hostility to trusts in general. When every voter in the land is made to feel directly and seriously, in the heavy increase of his necessary living expenses, the harmful results of industrial monopoly, a feeling is aroused that bodes no good to trusts. It is never safe to drive the masses to desperation. If the people are goaded too far by the merciless greed of such concerns as the packers' combine they will start a revolution that will not stop until it has wiped all such consolidations out of existence."

"The public had not made up its mind whether trusts as a whole are an evil or a blessing. Some of them have seemed to be grinding monopolies, but many others appeared to be harmless and beneficial. Business has been much better since the trusts came into existence so plentifully and there was a disposition to give the trusts credit accordingly. But the extortions of the meat combine and some other similar combinations are rapidly destroying whatever friendliness the masses may have felt towards trusts and trust methods. The sentiment that the trust 'evil' must be downed is becoming both widespread and fierce. Unless something is done speedily to allay it the next congress may be elected on a platform whose chief plank will be 'Down with the trusts.'"

"The American people can stop the trust business if they become sufficiently aroused and determined. If present laws are unavailing they will insist on stronger ones. If the national constitution is in the way, they will insist on a constitutional amendment—and they can get it. The result of such a popular upheaval would be disastrous to many consolidations that are not oppressive, as well as to those that are. For that reason the large business corporations of the former kind should view the reckless work of the beef trust with uneasiness, if not alarm. If the monopolistic robbery to which consumers are now subjected continues a few months longer the anti-trust issue will overshadow all others and the political party that promises most in the line of eradicating trusts will sweep the country."

Married in Lexington.

Mr. Noly Cole and Miss Florence Dysart, leading young people of Dover, came to Lexington Wednesday, secured a marriage license and were married by the Rev. Mr. Fenstermacher, of the Christian church, at his home at 4:30 p. m.

The bridal couple was attended by Mr. and Miss Dysart, brother and sister to the bride, Mr. Wall and Miss Caldwell.

The INTELLIGENCER, along with the numerous friends of the newly married couple, extends congratulations.

Mrs. J. O. Lesueur went to Kansas City Thursday morning to visit relatives and friends for a few days.

DARK CHAPTER IN MISSOURI'S HISTORY.

Squandering of the State's Monies and Securities by the Republican Party.

TAKEN OFF RAILROADS AND FASTENED ON PEOPLE
Official Corruption Unparalleled Outside Carpetbag Rule in the South.

Secretary of State Sam B. Cook in the latest chapter of his political hand-book, makes an exceedingly interesting subject of the origin and reduction of the state debt. In this chapter, given to the press Thursday, Mr. Cook says:

So much that is wholly at variance with the official records has been published by a partisan republican press concerning the creation and reduction of the state debt that a brief recital of the facts will not be out of place at this time.

The republicans make two specific allegations regarding the state debt which if both be true would relieve that party of any responsibility for the more than forty millions of dollars, principal and interest, which the people of Missouri have been required to pay since the republicans were in control of the state.

First—They assert that the state debt originated before the republicans came into power.

Second—That the railroads to aid in the construction of which the state bonds were issued, were not corruptly or improperly relieved of their financial obligations to the state while the republicans were in control.

The first allegation is true and has never been questioned from a democratic standpoint.

Prior to the civil war when millionaires were few and private capital for the construction of railways was as scarce as it is now plentiful for that purpose, both the national and state governments were lending their credit to aid in the building of these great enterprises, the construction of which was admittedly essential to the development of the country.

The national government, in addition to loaning its credit, made large grants of public lands to aid these enterprises.

Missouri from 1851 to 1857 loaned her credit to these enterprises, taking as security for the bonds issued a first mortgage lien on the property of the roads, including not only their right of way, superstructure, buildings, equipment, etc., but also the lands granted them by the national government. Counties, towns and individuals made liberal subscriptions to these enterprises, and these subscriptions, with the money advanced by the parties constructing the roads, all went to secure the state.

Governor Sterling Price was opposed to the policy of the state aiding in the construction of railroads and vetoed the measure, but the general assembly passed a bill over his veto by the constitutional majority.

It should be borne in mind that the aid loaned by the state was for the construction of the main lines of the Missouri Pacific, Wabash (then North Missouri), Hannibal & St. Joseph, Iron Mountain and Southern Pacific (now Frisco).

The national government had granted these lines 1,834,434 acres of land to aid in their construction, and this valuable property was also included in the mortgage held by the state.

Under the condition imposed by the legislature, the state was amply secured against loss. If, however, any of our Republican friends are skeptical on this point, they are respectfully referred to the inaugural address of the Republican Governor who in 1865, in reviewing the conditions of the railroads, concluded with this statement:

"The roads are ample security for the amounts advanced by the state to them respectively."

So much for the creation of the debt and the security provided.

Now let us see if the securities were squandered and the debt thereby imposed on the people through corrupt and fraudulent methods.

The Wabash owed the state in

principal and interest \$6,960,000.

The legislature, which was overwhelmingly Republican in both branches, in the session of 1868 passed this act:

"That the debt due, or to become due, from the North Missouri Railroad Company to the state of Missouri for bonds of the state loaned said company to aid in the construction of their road (amounting to four million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars), and for the interest paid on said bonds by the state, is hereby sold and assigned to Henry T. Blow, . . . and their associates for the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, which sum may be paid in any outstanding state bonds, and shall be paid into the state treasury on or before the fourth day of July next."

By this act there was fastened on the state a direct debt of \$6,760,000.

This republican legislature did not by any means limit its corporation-debt-releasing and state-debt-creating tactics to the Wabash.

The Iron Mountain went through the force of a public sale. The highest bid was rejected and the road, which owed the state over six millions of dollars, was awarded by the commissioners to a firm by the name of "A. J. McKay and others" for the sum of \$570,000.

The commissioners rejected bids for over a million dollars.

Evidence taken before the McGlinch legislative committee developed the fact that McKay's visible property consisted of a span of Arkansas mules and an open spring wagon, and that the "others" associated with him as purchasers included three brothers of one of the commissioners who voted to reject the higher bid.

By this Iron Mountain transaction an additional debt of \$6,061,454 was fastened upon the state.

But still the ravenous maws of the political blood suckers of that corruption-breeding period were not satisfied. The Missouri Pacific owed the state \$10,780,000. At this same session a legislative committee reported to that body that after thorough investigation, they found the Missouri Pacific road to be worth \$12,707,497.

This was twenty per cent above the amount due the state. Yet within a month from the date of this report this legislature passed an act fastening upon the state \$5,780,000 of the Missouri Pacific indebtedness and relieving the railroad company of this sum.

Naturally, the question would arise as to the cause which led the legislature to add over five million of dollars to the burdens of the people.

The facts came out in a suit in the United States court in the case of James M. Lamb et al vs. the Missouri Pacific Railroad company, in which the evidence established the fact that a corruption fund of \$193,048.60 had been used by the managers of the Missouri Pacific to pass the bill releasing the road of \$5,780,000 and fastening that sum on the people.

But still there were other promoters and political favorites to be taken care of. The Frisco owed the state six and a half millions of dollars. Another mock sale was held, and the road, with over a million acres of land, knocked off for \$1,300,000.

After the purchasers paid \$325,000 they concluded the state could be bent out of the remainder and this same legislature generously passed an act relieving the purchasers of the payment of the remainder of their bill.

By this last act the state had fastened upon it an additional debt of \$6,198,770.

These are all matters of record. They constitute one of the darkest

chapters in the history of the commonwealth.

Riotous corruption held high carnival in the legislative halls of the state, a condition more appalling, if possible, than that which has so recently aroused the honest citizens of St. Louis to the need for heroic action in dealing with official hoodlums.

For some unknown reason, the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad did not take advantage of the prevailing corruption to rid themselves of their three millions of indebtedness at the expense of the taxpayers of the state. This road after the democrats came into power, paid the entire amount of its indebtedness, with interest.

In the face of these record facts, can there be any question as to who is responsible for this debt of twenty-five millions of dollars?

In the face of the inaugural message of the republican governor "that the roads are ample security for the amounts advanced to them respectively," can any honest republican today hold that his party did not put a debt of \$6,760,000 on the people when for \$200,000 it released the state's lien against the Wabash for the entire amount of that road's indebtedness?

Can any republican face an intelligent audience and hold that the releasing of the Missouri Pacific's loan of \$5,780,000 in the face of the report of the legislative committee (made at the same session) that the road was worth over twelve millions of dollars; or the sale of the Iron Mountain to the lowest bidder; or the giving away of the Frisco with over a million acres of land for the paltry sum of \$325,000, was an honest transaction?

No fair-minded, intelligent Missourian, whatever his politics, can go over these records and fail to be convinced:

First—That the legislator in loaning the credit of the state in aid of the construction of these railroads took ample security to protect the state against the loss of a single dollar—security which the republicans themselves, through their own governor and legislative committee, pronounced ample.

Second—That these securities were corruptly squandered by republican officials.

Third—That the squandering of the securities fastened a direct debt upon the people of twenty-five million dollars.

After the republicans had thus saddled a direct debt of twenty-five million dollars upon the people, they reduced this total, before retiring from power, to \$20,889,000.

This reduction was effected by use of funds received from the federal government to reimburse the state for moneys advanced by Missouri in the prosecution of the war, and by the collection of military and other taxes levied directly on the people.

Under the liberal republican administration of Governor Brown, 1871 and 1872, the debt was increased \$879,000.

So when the democrats came into power in 1873, they found the state debt to be \$21,768,000, bearing six and seven per cent interest, and the bonds at a discount.

The tax rate during the six years the republicans were in power averaged 60 cents on the \$100, and included, besides, during the years of 1865 and 1866, a one-dollar revenue poll tax and a two-dollar military poll tax. So whatever reduction the republicans made in the debt exclusive of the amount received from the federal government as war indemnity was taken from the people by the most excessive and burdensome taxation ever known outside the carpet-bag ridden states of the south.

The democrats began a reduction of the state debt by restoring the credit of the commonwealth, which enabled them to refund the bonds at a rate of interest practically half of what the people were required to pay under republican management.

In order to lighten the burdens of the people, the tax rate was reduced until today it is only 25 cents for all state purposes.

In spite of this reduction of more than 50 per cent in the tax rate, the democrats have steadily reduced the debt until today it amounts to only \$5,180,839.

Of this sum, \$4,393,839 is held in trust by the state for educational purposes, the interest on which goes annually to the support of our public schools.

This leaves outstanding bonds to the amount of \$787,000, every cent of which will be paid during the coming year.

In spite of this excellent business showing, the leading republican organ of the state clamorously insists that the democrats have been too long in paying the debt.

It is true it has been a long and weary road for the tax payers of Missouri, now happily almost ended, but it is scarcely becoming a riotous spoilsman of the dark days of republican misrule in Missouri to complain of the length of the journey.

To use the language of an exceptionally intelligent Southwest Missouri editor, the man who deliberately sets fire to his own house should not be too critical as to the amount of water his neighbor uses in extinguishing the flames.

"Ah Sid."

The comic opera, "Ah Sid," beautifully costumed and excellently staged, furnished an evening of rare amusement Thursday for Lexington theatre-goers. The house was packed with a most fashionable audience.

The words for "Ah Sid" were written by Messrs. Harry and John Taubman and the music by Prof. Stark. It is a catchy, entrancing musical sketch and the words carry with them a most entertaining plot.

Though "Ah Sid" was put on by home talent it lacked the usual dullness and crudeness of the work of amateurs. In fact the sketch throughout would have reflected credit on professionals. Lexington has some splendid musical talent, which fact was once more attested by the rendition of this opera. It is useless for the INTELLIGENCER to personalize. Every character was good and the *dramatis personae* was strong throughout.

"Ah Sid" will be repeated at the New Grand Monday night.

Masons Elect Officers.

The grand council of Royal and Select Masters of Missouri Masons, in session at Jefferson City this week, on Wednesday elected the following officers:

Cyrus H. Jones, of Rolla, grand master; Robert F. Stevenson, of Kansas City, deputy grand master; Dr. Gib W. Carson, of St. Louis, principal commander of work; Noah M. Given, of Harrisonville, grand treasurer; William H. Mayo, of St. Louis, grand recorder; William F. Kuhn, of Kansas City, grand lecturer; William H. Barrett, of Harrisonville, grand captain guard; Rev. Henry B. Boude, of California, grand chaplain; John H. Barr, of Kansas City, grand commander of council; Dr. M. T. Balsey, of Joplin, grand marshal; N. J. Swetland, of Chillicothe, grand steward, and John W. Queen, of St. Louis, grand sentinel.

The 300 Masons in attendance at the meetings Wednesday enjoyed a carriage drive about the city by the citizens and lunch at the penitentiary as a novelty. In the evening an informal reception was tendered at the mansion by Governor and Mrs. A. M. Dockery.

Social Entertainments.

Delightful social functions for Lexington this week were the entertainments of a number of invited guests at her pleasant and hospitable home by Mrs. Mayme Moreland. In the afternoon was a domino party and there were just fifty contestants. For the first prize there was a tie between Misses Alice Peak and Kate Kriebel, but the prize fell to Miss Peak in a drawing contest.

In the evening Mrs. Moreland entertained at high five and had as her guests a number of young people. W. Wills won the gentleman's prize, a package of fragrant cigars, and for the lady's prize, a cluster of beautiful carnations, there was a tie between Misses Fleta Bradley, Mary Blackwell, Dixie Graddy, Senn Alford and Jennie Grimes. In a drawing contest Miss Alford was successful.

Dr. and Mrs. Rush, of Forest City, Ark., arrived Wednesday night to visit Mrs. Rush's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Peak.